



THE SIXTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE
Hexham Rural District Council

WITH
Tabular Returns of Mortality,
Housing, etc ,

FOR THE YEAR 1940,

BY
DR. G. PATTON.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PROSPECT HOUSE,
HEXHAM.

To Chairman and Members of the Hexham Rural District Council :—

I have pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

This report does not take the usual form, being condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and is mainly statistical.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—196,030 acres, which is sub-divided into the following districts :—

Allendale	...	51,833	...	4,662	} Estimated Population 1940 23,090
Bywell	...	46,637	...	7,096	
Chollerton	...	50,534	...	4,957	
Hexham	...	47,026	...	4,523	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Whole District	...	196,030		21,238	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	

Number of Inhabited Houses, (end of 1940)	
according to Rate Books	6,246
Number of Families or Separate occupants,	
1931 Census	5,513
Rateable Value (formerly the Assessable	
Value) 1st April, 1940	£134,044
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1st April,	
1940)	£533 11s. 0d.

Vital Statistics.

		TOTAL	M.	F.	BIRTH RATE
Births *	Legitimate	264	134	130	
	Illegitimate	18	6	12	12.2

* *Corrected by Registrar's General Figures.*

STILL BIRTHS.—The following figures are given by the Registrar General and are not included in the above :—

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	11	5	6
Illegitimate	1	1	—

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puer. and post-abort.		
Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30. Other maternal causes	1	3.5
Total	1	3.5

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	56.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	56.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	55.5

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42
„ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

BIRTHS.—The actual number of births registered in the Rural District of Hexham is 795 compared with 334 in 1939 and 367 in 1938. This number is made up of 415 males and 380 females, and gives an uncorrected Birth Rate of 34.4. The following table gives the uncorrected Births as they are distributed :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Allendale ...	1939	16	20	1	—	17	20	37
	1940	16	14	1	2	17	16	33
Bywell ...	1939	17	14	—	1	17	15	32
	1940	21	16	1	1	22	17	39
Chollerton	1939	22	10	1	—	23	10	33
	1940	17	20	—	—	17	20	37
Hexham ...	1939	118	109	1	4	119	113	232
	1940	350	305	9	22	359	327	686
Total for District	1939	173	153	3	5	176	158	334
	1940	404	355	11	25	415	380	795

DEATHS.—During the year there have been 300 deaths of persons in, and belonging to the Rural District. This is an increase on last year when there were 257. In the preceding year there were 301.

These figures give a corrected Death Rate of 12.9 per thousand. The following table classifies these deaths, according to their age groups in each sub-district, also into Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths :—

DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Sub-District, also Adult, Infant, and Uncertified Deaths.

District		Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total
Age Group :						
0—1	...	5	2	1	8	16
1—2	...	2	1	—	—	3
2—5	...	—	—	2	—	2
5—15	...	—	1	—	1	2
15—25	...	1	2	2	1	6
25—45	...	4	5	5	4	18
45—65	...	16	28	9	20	73
Over 65	...	44	57	37	42	180
Totals all ages		72	96	56	76	300
Uncertified	M.	—	1	1	1	3
	F.	1	2	—	2	5
Infant	M.	4	1	1	5	11
	F.	1	1	—	3	5
Adult	M.	41	41	28	39	149
	F.	26	53	27	29	135

} 300

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	TOTAL
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tub. of Resp. System...	2	2	3	2	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1	—	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	1	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	2	—	—	2
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph. ...	—	—	—	1	1
Cancer of B. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	1	2	—	—	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	4	2	3	12
Cancer of breast ...	2	1	—	1	4
Cancer of all other sites ...	6	8	5	4	23
Diabetes ...	—	1	—	—	1
Intra-cran. Vasc. lesions ...	7	15	6	11	39
Heart Disease ...	20	21	14	23	78
Other dis. of circ. system ...	2	—	—	1	3
Bronchitis ...	2	4	3	—	9
Pneumonia ...	4	4	2	3	13
Other resp. diseases ...	3	2	1	—	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	—	2	1	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	—	1	1	2	4
Other digestive diseases ...	1	2	2	1	6
Nephritis ...	5	5	3	4	17
Puer and post-abort. sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	1	—	—	1
Premature birth ...	2	—	—	2	4
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	1	1	1	3	6
Suicide ...	2	—	—	2	4
Road traffic accidents ...	—	—	1	1	2
Other violent causes ...	3	—	2	2	7
All other causes ...	6	17	8	8	39
TOTAL ...	72	96	56	76	300

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 16 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 17 in 1939 and 19 in 1938. The Infant Mortality Rate is 56.1 per thousand births registered, compared with 79.4 for 1939 and 68.5 for 1938.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1940.

	Rate per 1,000 total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes								Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
				Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza				
England and Wales ...	14·6	0·55	14·3	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·06	0·32	4·6	55		
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	16·0	0·64	15·8	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·07	0·29	5·9	61		
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15·7	0·55	12·8	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·05	0·30	4·4	54		
London ...	13·7	0·44	17·8	0·00	—	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·18	5·8	50		
Hexham R.D. ...	12·2	0·51	12·9	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·08	—	56		

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE OF THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Is similar to that of previous year.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

CORBRIDGE WATER SUPPLY.—As requested by the military authorities, another spring was put in to Shaw Well Tank.

Some extensions of mains in existing supplies were carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table gives the particulars asked for in the district. The numbers of those converted from the conservancy system are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Table later in the Report :—

Type	1940	Converted during Year.
W.C.'s	2631	—
Privies	3204	To W.C.'s, 54
Fails	449	do. 2

Apart from Closet Accommodation, no material alteration from last report.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conditions, water supplies and sanitary conveniences as in the last report.

D.—HOUSING.

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1940.

	With State Unaided Assistance	TOTAL.
(a) By Local Authority ...	6	6
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	— 7	7

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Do not differ materially from the previous report.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections systematically carried out.

Infectious Diseases, 1935-1940 (inclusive).

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	72	107	32	53	62	17
Diphtheria ...	16	48	4	13	28	16
Enteric ...	1	2	—	1	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	5	3	2	11
Erysipelas... ..	13	4	6	4	8	2
Pneumonias ...	17	26	33	26	15	14
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	7	11
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	7	170

Diphtheria Immunisation, 1940.

	Total number of Children Immunised	Pre- School Children	School Children
Diphtheria Immunisation	285	44	241

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 8 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1940:—

Age periods.	New Cases				Net Deaths in Hexham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm		Pulmonary		Non Pulm	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 & over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	7	2	2	5	4	1	1

TABLE NO. 1.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during the Year 1940,
and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1932...	20740	281	280	13.5	230	11.0	22	47	15	53.3	256	12.3
1933...	20900	286	260	12.3	251	12.0	30	37	7	26.9	258	12.3
1934...	20750	254	222	10.6	238	11.4	7	44	16	67.5	255	12.2
1935...	20410	337	284	13.9	242	11.8	28	35	15	52.8	249	12.1
1936...	20240	332	269	13.2	238	11.7	22	56	18	66.9	272	13.4
1937...	19860	360	264	13.2	277	13.9	46	50	16	60.6	281	14.1
1938...	19630	367	277	14.1	276	14.0	27	52	19	68.5	301	15.3
1939...	20610	334	210	10.7	239	11.5	23	41	17	79.4	257	12.4
1940...	* 23090	795	282	12.2	311	13.4	65	54	16	56.1	300	12.9

* This figure is estimated by Registrar General for Birth and Death Rates.

TABLE No. 3.

Causes of Death, shewing sex distribution, during Year ending
31st December, 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH.						M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel and polio-enceph	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer of B. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	8	4
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	13	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	...	14	25
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	44	34
Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	9	4
Other resp. diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	20	19
						160	140
TOTAL						300	

Table No. 4.**Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1940.**

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases- Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Laryngitis - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Diarrhoea - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Melaena Neonatorum -	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Rickets - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inattention at Birth -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations -	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth -	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes - -	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
All causes {	Certified.	9	...	...	9	2	3	2	...	16
	Uncertified.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTALS -	9	...	...	...	9	2	3	2	...	16

FOOD INSPECTION, 1940.

UNSOUND FOOD.				Surrendered		Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
				stones	lbs.		
Beef (home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Imported)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mutton (home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Imported)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bacon	...	...	...	36	...	...	...
Fruit...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Foods :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL				...	36	...	...

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district	...	...	650
Approximate number of Cows kept	...	...	8,510

